

# Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid Quarterly Meeting

— May 10, 2000 —

## SUMMARY REPORT

### Meeting the Challenge: Strategies for Gender Equality in International Development

William S. Reese, ACVFA Chair, welcomed attendees and restated the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid's commitment to sustainable development. Before turning to the day's topic, Mr. Reese described the Committee's mandate to advise USAID and other parts of the U.S. government, and invited the audience to participate fully in the discussions to inform ACVFA's recommendations on gender.

#### Opening Remarks: **Ambassador J. Brady Anderson, USAID Administrator**

Ambassador Anderson welcomed the ACVFA members and audience, stating that USAID and NGOs together are involved in some very interesting and meaningful work to give men and women the opportunity to improve their lives. Administrator Anderson commended the Committee and remarked that USAID's Annual Performance Report, which ACVFA helped improve, was recently ranked first among 24 government agencies.

Ambassador Anderson quoted a Chinese proverb that states that women hold up half the sky. "How can they hold up half the sky if they lack the tools they need, if they don't have respect?" he asked. Women own less than one-tenth of the world's property. In some places they cannot own property.

This is not acceptable. USAID has been committed to changing these conditions for many years. One of the Agency's strategies is to improve economic opportunities for women. USAID is especially proud of its microenterprise development program. In aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, microlenders are reaching more than 70,000 borrowers in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Perhaps the single most important strategy, however, is education for women. In countries where USAID is located, significantly more girls are entering and staying in school. Providing a primary education to every girl and boy in every developing country would cost about \$7 billion per year for the next ten years. While this may seem like an impossible sum, when one considers that the annual education budget for Fairfax County, a suburb of Washington, DC, is \$1.3 billion, one has to think that it is possible.

Ambassador Anderson also spoke about threats such as trafficking in women. USAID has organized public education campaigns to address this problem. In the Ukraine, USAID set up a hotline that has received calls from the entire region. "By improving the lives of women and young girls, we also improve the lives of boys and men." Ambassador Anderson concluded.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**“Globalization and Feminization:  
An Agenda for Gender and Development”**

**Lincoln Chen, Vice President,  
Rockefeller Foundation**

Dr. Chen’s talk centered on three major points:

- First, globalization is fundamentally changing the playing field in terms of gender equality, introducing new threats as well as offering new opportunities.
- Second, the “feminization of globalization” impinges on virtually all aspects of gender equality, including the traditional sectors of development and new dimensions that it introduces.
- Finally, just as the development community launched earlier phases of gender equality strategies (special programs and mainstreaming), new strategies are needed to harness the power of globalization for gender equality. These strategies should not only advance gender and international development, but can also help rebuild a vibrant constituency for America’s overseas engagement.

Recent years have witnessed strategic debate about whether gender equality is better advanced by “women’s programs” or “gender programs.”

What has been the development community’s experience in gender? In the 1970s, there was the “special program” phase—intellectual and policy work—when the Ford Foundation and others made important contributions to advance women in a variety of areas. In the 1980s and 1990s, many agencies moved toward “mainstreaming” gender into programs and policies. Recent years have witnessed strategic debate about whether gender equality is better advanced by “women’s programs” or “gender programs.”

The forces of globalization are fundamentally changing the playing field. There are new threats and new opportunities. There is an increasing “global connectedness,” not just of the economy, but of all aspects—politics, culture, human affairs—that is compressing time and distance. These extremely powerful forces are having an impact in three major dimensions:

1. Market privatization is leading to unequal growth; women are being incorporated into the lowest rung in the informal economy.
2. As Amartya Sen writes, globalization may be disproportionately disadvantaging women.
3. Globalization is leading to new problems. “Commodification” of people is demeaning and a loss of dignity for people. Counter cultural extremism and a return to “Confucian” values that accord women lower status and diminished value are also problems.

How can we use these powerful forces so they can be more positive for gender equality?

- The information revolution can involve horizontal networks that bring together shared interests and goals; NGOs represent a powerful force, especially if they are linked to academics, the government, and the private sector. The formation of coalitions and alliances will add “muscularity” to gender equality.
- The widespread availability of information brought about by the information technology revolution can be used to help educate the public.
- The reaffirmation of norms and values has led to greater transparency and created a role for governing institutions in formalizing the positive trends toward inclusion of women in democratic processes and human rights.

Gender and development can be an important force to strengthen the constituency for foreign aid. A recent unpublished study found that two-thirds of U.S. women believe that the United States can have a useful role overseas. More than half prefer cooperative approaches. Women focus on peaceful strategies and the promotion of the culture of global caring. These are issues that resonate among women.

Dr. Chen posited that gender equality would be achieved in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This will mark an important milestone in history, as important as the abolition of slavery.

## DISCUSSION

Chairman Reese invited ACVFA members and audience participants to address questions to Dr. Chen.

**Question:** How is the Rockefeller Foundation integrating gender into its organizational structure?

**Response:** The foundation president is committed to making these institutional changes, but it will take years, not days or months. Change must start at the top.

**Question:** Is there a systematic process of documenting “best practices” or examples within Rockefeller?

**Response:** Rockefeller is now going through this process. UNDP and UNIFEM have begun a series of reports and reviews of global practices that perhaps will help in disseminating best practices. There is a wealth of experience, both successful and unsuccessful, that should be recorded.

## PANEL

**“Institutionalizing Gender Equality:  
Opportunities and Constraints”**

**Moderators:**

**Theresa Loar**, Director,  
President’s Inter-Agency Council on Women  
**James Michel**, Counselor, USAID  
**Anne Richard**, Director, Office of Resources,  
Policy and Plans, U.S. Department of State  
**Mayra Buvinic**, Chief, Social Development Division,  
Sustainable Development Department,  
InterAmerican Development Bank (IDB)  
**Gita Gopal**, Gender Coordinator,  
Operations Evaluation Unit, World Bank

Ms. Loar highlighted the importance of mainstreaming gender into sectoral programs. Her office has evolved from advocate to policy consultant. She noted the importance of partnerships—between the Department of State and USAID and among NGOs joining together in coalitions for gender equality.

The first speaker, Ambassador Michel of USAID, noted the many parallels between the evolution of USAID policies and practices and changes evident in the broader international context. This reflects, to some extent, the history of U.S. leadership and influence. The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) adopted policies similar to those at USAID. The 1990s has witnessed a real shift toward emphasizing gender equality as a shared development objective and international support for local efforts to mainstream gender analysis and gender-aware policies in the formulation of the strategies of developing countries. Development agencies are looking at poverty reduction and the feminization of poverty.

Several characteristics of the effort by the DAC to encourage donors to implement the policies to which they agreed are relevant to improving U.S. national performance:

Development agencies are looking at poverty reduction and the feminization of poverty.

1. There was an explicit commitment by leaders (development ministers and aid agency heads) to a clearly articulated and effectively communicated policy.
2. A network of concerned individuals used practical instruments to share knowledge, experience, and best practices. Policies informed the debate.
3. Training was given to the Secretariat so its staff had an enhanced capacity to identify issues and frame actions.
4. There were processes in place for continuous reporting, monitoring and evaluation—especially through peer reviews and high-level oversight.

Integration of gender is played out in USAID in the culture of results orientation, which, according to Ambassador Michel, is one of the most important factors helping to institutionalize gender equality as an integral part of USAID’s work. Ambassador Michel’s check of USAID’s results reporting database revealed gender considerations in more than 80 strategic objectives of bureaus and missions, and in a broad range of sectoral programs, including the Agency’s recent focus on trade and development. Gender reporting is required, and the database is now starting to collect gender disaggregated data.

Ambassador Michel also spoke forcefully about the value of partnerships. “The practicalities of working for sustainable partnerships and poverty reduction will provide an environment conducive to further progress for mainstreaming gender equality as a key agent and a key objective of development. With continued collaboration from ACVFA and other partners, and with sufficient public and political support for the overall goals of development, I believe we are well positioned in USAID to demonstrate impressive results in the coming years in advancing gender equality as a worthy goal in its own right and also as an essential factor for development,” he concluded.

The second speaker, Anne Richard of the Department of State, explained that her intent is to see that the State Department integrates gender into its planning process, which involves missions, bureaus, and local programs. Currently, she is focusing on two priorities: trafficking in women and women’s political participation. Ms. Richard involved Ms. Loar in reviewing the Bureau’s plans. This process led to incorporating gender concerns into existing structures, rather than creating a something new in the bureaus. Piggy-backing upon what was already in place was an important ingredient of success. In the Europe Bureau, for example, there are coordinated programs in Ukraine and Poland to inform women as to the dangers of trafficking. There are similar programs in Bosnia. Vital Voices is another example. These efforts were started with small amounts of seed money from Ms. Richard’s office to the President’s Interagency Council and the bureaus. The programs were spurred on by strong leadership.

Ms. Richard enumerated the key ingredients for success:

- Commitment of a top leader;
- Incorporation of the gender activity as part of the regular workload, not an add-on;
- Application of some additional resources (seed money);
- Better tools to track resources and pull them together;
- Incentives to reward and promote the people who do this well;
- Evolution of a new outlook at the State Department that cultural issues are foreign policy issues.

While gender integration many not yet be comprehensive across the State Department, there are good models for how it can be done and the outlook is positive.

The third speaker, Mayra Buvinic of the IDB, commended ACVFA for keeping the gender issue alive and urged the Committee to continue to view it as a high priority. Regarding the Bank’s programming, there are operational and structural

issues in mainstreaming gender. Interestingly, the Bank has made most progress in incorporating gender into new programs, while progress in the traditional lending portfolio has been slower. The biggest challenge is going from grants to loans that invest in women. Ms. Buvinic summarized progress in each area:

1. New programs: Criminal violence in societies was ignored up until three or four years ago. Then the IDB made the conceptual bridge between domestic and street violence. Domestic violence is one of the high risk factors for street violence. The Bank brought together

those concerned about both areas and started programs in Uruguay and the Dominican Republic. There is an openness to new ideas. It’s harder to change an existing “blueprint.”

2. Including or not including gender in the Bank’s traditional portfolio depends on the nature of the loans. It is difficult, for example, to break patterns in agricultural loans. The Bank must work on its own staff, as well as that of its borrowers, to include gender in project design and implementation.
3. Going from grants to women to loans that invest in women: This is still at the design stage and is the biggest challenge.

While gender integration many not yet be comprehensive across the State Department, there are good models for how it can be done and the outlook is positive.

Ms. Buvinic shared practical solutions for meeting the challenges:

1. Show the high economic and social benefits of investing in women, especially in the area of mitigating domestic violence. The Bank did a study on violence and showed the economic impact of violence against women, e.g., Chile loses 2 percent of its GDP as a result of domestic violence.
2. Support advocacy in borrowing countries to push women's agenda.
3. Reduce the transaction cost for borrowers and users.

The fourth speaker, Gita Gopal of the World Bank, noted the need to reexamine the emphasis on gender. The World Bank is now in the process of evaluating its gender policy. Since 1984, every program has had to look at activities that may have a negative impact on women. Since 1994, the Bank has been required to assist countries in ensuring that their development policies have an equitable impact on women and men. The Country Assistance Strategy must reduce gender disparity and increase women's participation in economic development.

There has been a good deal of progress at the Bank, evidenced by the fact that 38 percent of projects include gender issues and 28 percent have gender action plans. Almost 75 percent of country assistance strategies reflect consideration of gender.

Ms. Gopal noted that it is important to be cautious in applying issues of gender equality if they have not been thoroughly thought out at the grassroots level. She emphasized that donors need to know the impact of their assistance on men and women to move forward. The World Bank is looking at other donors' experience in measuring results on gender issues.

However, USAID employees said they had been working on gender equality long before the GPA was initiated.

## USAID GENDER PLAN OF ACTION ASSESSMENT PRESENTATION

**Ambassador Sandy Vogelgesang,**

President, Everest Associates

**Elise Fiber Smith,**

Chair, ACVFA Gender Working Group

Ms. Smith outlined the strategic points of the Gender Plan of Action: procurement, personnel, incentives and monitoring and evaluation. She stressed the collaborative relationship of ACVFA and USAID in developing the GPA and said that audience feedback from this meeting will be incorporated into ACVFA's recommendations to USAID.

Ambassador Sandy Vogelgesang, president of Everest Associates, led the ACVFA sponsored assessment of the GPA. She noted that ACVFA asked the study team to find out what action had been taken on the GPA and what USAID should do next on the GPA and more generally to promote gender equality. Findings were based on interviews with over 500 people worldwide, field visits to Uganda, Guatemala and Morocco, a survey of all USAID Missions, and a review of literature on gender equality.

- Beyond the findings on the GPA itself, the more important finding was the commitment to gender equality reflected in USAID field programs. On the GPA, there have been some impressive achievements, especially in procurement, requiring gender sensitivity in scopes of work for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts. However, action on some important areas is still incomplete or pending.
- Why has the follow up on GPA been slow? Communication was a factor. Less than five percent of the people interviewed in USAID had ever heard of the GPA. The mid 1990s, when the GPA was launched, was a time of great turmoil in USAID with big budget cuts, downsizing, and reengineering.

Over 90 percent of the people interviewed said that there was no measurable impact from the GPA. However, USAID



employees said they had been working on gender equality long before the GPA was initiated. Many people felt that it was too soon to make a judgement on the GPA because it has not been fully implemented. Most people viewed the GPA's institutional approach as just one of the ways to advance gender equality. Many USAID employees criticized GPA's "checklist" approach to change, while PVOs gave more importance to institutional tools to change organizational culture. USAID employees probably underestimated the value of the GPA and the PVOs probably overestimated the potential for Agency buy-in to the GPA in the mid 90s. There was agreement on the need for integrating gender into Agency training.

People surveyed offered valuable suggestions about what the Agency should do overall to promote gender equality. A consensus emerged that provides the basis for the Agency to move forward, supported by ACVFA, with a high level, high priority, seven-point program to promote gender equality throughout USAID.

1. **Demonstration of Clear, Consistent Agency Leadership in Washington and the Field.** USAID leaders need to "walk the talk" with vision and commitment built on consensus inside the organization, adequate resources and training, and clear accountability.
2. **Commitment to Change.** USAID needs to act as a more assertive agent for change using approaches that are more comprehensive in impact, more integrated and more innovative.
3. **Funding.** Money matters. The U.S. must spend more money on bilateral and multilateral development assistance. Serious promotions of gender equality will require more money overall for USAID or reallocation of resources within the agency or both. A gender equality fund could be established to foster USAID innovation and responsiveness in the field.
4. **Commitment to Organizational Change.** New agency policy on gender equality should reflect a balance between USAID and PVO views on institutional change

Economic programs are the most critical means to advance gender equality. Vocational education is the most cost effective investment in that regard.

and incorporate the highest priority unfinished GPA business. The strategy should include a senior management team to promote gender equality, supported by a stronger, more technically oriented Office of Gender Equality.

5. **Expanded Outreach to Promote Gender Equality.** USAID needs to increase coordination within the U.S. Government (especially Department of State/USAID resource planners), provide special outreach to U.S. women's organizations, increase dialogue with USAID's "customers," and increase donor coordination (especially on gender issues in donors' national policy reviews).
6. **Shift to a Greater Focus on Program.** Move beyond fixing systems toward new program approaches.
7. **New Substantive Priorities.** New Agency policy should focus on strategic questions such as: new targets of opportunity or need in key countries, greater emphasis on regional or global issues, increased focus on mega-cities in the developing world, and reaching the largest cohort of adolescents in world history. New agency policy should also focus on program issues related to the Agency strategy. Economic programs are the most critical means to advance gender equality. Vocational education is the most cost effective investment in that regard.

## DISCUSSION

**Question:** Women remain grossly underrepresented in the U.S. House and Senate and state legislatures. How do you reconcile U.S. foreign policy with what is happening domestically?

**Response:** We must build a constituency for foreign aid. The U.S. public is ready to respond. We need active outreach.

**Question:** Domestic violence is a big issue in the Near East and Southeast Asia. Would a regional focus help ameliorate the situation?

**Response:** Regional approaches can help. Missions in the region can help address regional issues to highlight invisible victims. They can draw on cooperative partnerships and put a collective spotlight on issues.

**Question:** Is it better to use gender norms in individual programs, or make gender an overall strategic policy?

**Response:** The general consensus was that it may be appropriate to have gender as a strategic objective, but that it's better to integrate gender equality into sustainable development programs.

## PANEL

### “Committing Resources to Advance Gender Equality”

#### Moderators:

**Thomas H. Fox**, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination (PPC), USAID

**Bradford Smith**, Ford Foundation (missed session because of airline delay)

**Anastasia Posadskaya-Vanderbeck**, Soros Foundation

**Shira Saperstein**, The Moriah Fund, (substituting for Mary Ann Stein)

It is good to have a variety of funding support, but the groups should use the funds to implement the foundation's agenda.

Moderator Thomas Fox opened with introductions of the panelists and a recap of the panel's purpose: to consider how foundations can strengthen their commitment to ensure that women *are* development.

The first speaker, Anastasia Posadskaya-Vanderbeck, explained that the Soros Foundation works with national foundations in the former Soviet Union, South Africa, Guatemala, and other countries. Ms. Posadskaya-Vanderbeck focuses on the former Soviet countries. The Soros program had to create relationships with national foundations to make gender studies an integral part of their program, as their own initiative, not imposed by Soros USA. In 1997, the Soros program began in Albania and Poland with distinct women's programs. Other Soros programs didn't have separate women's programs and needed support. Soros created a

number of different programs for the region, including women's human rights; violence against women, including trafficking in women and children; and women in education.

The second speaker, Shira Saperstein, of the Moriah Fund, explained how its reproductive health program grew to include women's rights. It is a relatively small foundation with a focus on advocacy and policy including controversial issues where the government cannot provide support. The foundation also focuses on women of color in the United States and women overseas who are doubly burdened by class or ethnicity.

**Moderator Thomas Fox asked if the foundations were creating a culture that promotes mainstreaming gender.**

Ms. Posadskaya-Vanderbeck reported that, in 1997, Soros invited the Ford and Eurasia Foundations and other foundations to initial meetings to educate national groups that gender is a normal part of programs, not just a socialist idea. As a result, national groups are now creating their own programs. There has been an increase in funding from \$2.2 million in 1998 to \$3.9 million in 1999. Ms. Saperstein noted the Moriah Fund has made progress in looking at its programs through the “gender lens.”

**Moderator Thomas Fox asked how the organizations were using evaluation to ensure gender equity in their programs. He asked if they'd had any successes and what they expected of their grantees.**

Ms. Posadskaya-Vanderbeck said that this is an evaluation year for Soros. They will look at programmatic success and how many people share the value of women's empowerment. Ms. Saperstein expressed an interest in learning which organizations are developing indicators to measure women's progress. She said it is difficult to measure this over time.

**Moderator Thomas Fox asked how the development community could encourage USAID in this area.**

Ms. Saperstein said that it was essential that there be non-government funding sources. Foundations can provide

advocacy, independent evaluations of USAID programs, and hold USAID accountable to its own rhetoric. Ms. Posadskaya-Vanderbeck agreed that it was necessary for non-government sources to provide funding. It is good to have a variety of funding support, but the groups should use the funds to implement the foundation's agenda.

## DISCUSSION

**Question:** What is the role of PVOs in encouraging foundations to support gender equality?

**Response:** There are a limited number of foundations that focus on international development. Fewer still within that group focus on women. Since it is not possible to increase the number of foundations with women's programs, it would be better to encourage foundations to support gender within existing programs. The Moriah Fund looks for grantees to introduce this concept through grant proposals. PVOs should look for opportunities to build the capacity of foundations/organizations within the country, and the international community will then look to them to work with women.

**Question:** What is the role of creativity in program design?

**Response:** Boldness helps get things done and move ideas forward with a vision. Flexibility is important when working with foundations. Some grantees are focusing more narrowly, being proactive, and using a direct approach. Women's Edge, for example, is looking at trade issues and their impact on women. The Human Rights Watch Women's Rights Committee publicized women's rights issues. The Global Fund for Women gives small grants to NGOs. CEDPA's International Women's Health Program provides training and management for NGOs to build capacity in health care policy and economic reform.

**Question:** Are there examples of achievements, even anecdotal ones?

**Response:** Support to organizations for the Cairo conference marked a "sea change" in how the world related to women's health and development. As another example, women's human rights groups publicized rape during conflict so that

it became prosecuted through the international judicial process.

**Question:** How much effort is being put into training people to use resources effectively and through evaluation?

**Response:** Organizations need to build their organizational capacity. Training needs to be linked to a series of events to build capacity of an organization over time. Initial training is to "get to know the issues." Next, you must build capacity. You need to link training to services so that you know it's effective.

## WORKING GROUPS

Boldness helps get things done and move ideas forward with a vision. Flexibility is important when working with foundations.

The attendees broke into working groups to further discuss how to integrate gender into development strategies. Following these discussions, the assembly reconvened to share each group's findings.

The **first working group** focused on the strategies that USAID might employ to move ahead on gender equality and on suggestions for USAID to transform policy and programs. The group recommended that USAID recognize integrated approaches and provide funding and incentives for collaboration across sectors. Other suggestions included:

- Before designing a new program, conduct a needs assessment to highlight gender issues.
- Examine gender participation in light of the constraints within the results framework.
- Work with NGOs to do a better job in linking gender issues and poverty/economic hardship.
- Support a better enabling environment around gender issues.
- Work to achieve the ability to influence policies of others in the local/national context.
- Build links to local organizations.



- Respect the national context.

The **second working group** examined how to mainstream gender. Participants stressed the need to understand the local context before promoting gender equality and the need to involve program participants at the grassroots level. They suggested that program incentives could be used to motivate people to change within organizations. Members of the group emphasized the value of coalitions on women's issues to keep these issues at the forefront. The group also suggested that the WID Office become more of a technical advisory group for USAID. Other recommendations included:

- Use grassroots groups as an effective means of minimizing violence against women.
- Promote cross-sectoral cooperation—get women's groups interested in the environment, for example.
- Convince men that gender equality is important.
- Consider using in-country training rather than more expensive US-based training.

To get institutional buy-in into a GPA, the group suggested:

- Not adding another checklist or condition onto funding.
- Encourage thinking “outside the box.”
- Set up an inter-divisional task force to monitor weaving gender issues into program design.
- Hire staff who are already committed to gender issues.
- Provide additional funds to staff to buy-in to programs that address gender issues.
- Pick model sectors with the best chance of success.
- Provide staff training.
- Establish an internal audit unit that examines gender.

Members of the group emphasized the value of coalitions on women's issues to keep these issues at the forefront.

Program priorities included:

- Going beyond primary education to promote technical/vocational training.
- With the HIV/AIDS epidemic, give greater emphasis to need for primary education for girls.
- Develop qualitative indicators.

The **third working group** responded to three questions:

- What to do about improving gender equality?
  - How to do it and how to define an enabling environment?
  - How to get results and keep the momentum going?
 

To get results and keep the momentum going, the group suggested:

    - Get the media involved and go beyond “sound bites” to deeper issues.
    - Put the issue on the agenda for national/international dialogue.
    - Support and disseminate a “Best/Good Practices in Gender” report.

- Have a communications/public relations officer within each agency and PVO to meet the “hunger for information.”
- Link global and domestic agendas.
- Make allies and alliances.
- Insist on visible commitment from leadership.
- Create a supportive policy framework.
- Provide incentives for the staff in USAID and at PVOs to act.

In terms of “how to do it,” the group suggested:

- Identify community needs and develop indicators.
- Replicate existing models for best practices.
- Provide technical assistance and training for PVO and USAID staff to promote women’s participation.
- Promote linkages with partners and with the domestic agenda.
- Maintain the current gender office and mainstream gender concerns.
- Design gender programs so that they are more inclusive and non-threatening to men.
- Refuse to accept the “lack of money” as an excuse for inaction.
- Ask all donors to leverage funds to integrate gender in all proposals.
- Give systemic support/administration/training.

On what to do, the suggestions were to:

- Survey best practices to capture and document model programs.
- Target issues of importance to women such as vulnerability, health, and education issues.
- Accept the legitimacy of development interventions trying to affect cultural change where needed to address gender issues; USAID and the PVO community should be agents for change.

- Establish an information clearinghouse for recommendations.

- Identify where there are gaps, look for complementarities and reduce duplication, and target activities to effect change.

The **fourth working group** focused on how best to incorporate gender issues into development programs. Recommendations included:

- Recognize that cultural nuances are important for program design.
- Go to citizens for input and make them accountable.
- Help local women’s NGOs participate in exchange.
- Collaborate with other parties.
- Import field knowledge to decision-making.
- Local leaders need to own the process.
- Mobilize the community.

The group also noted its concern about the small amount of funding available (\$10 million/year) for USAID’s WID office. It was suggested that the WID office act as a technical resource for other offices and bureaus within USAID, rather than have its own programs.

The meeting concluded with the presentation of ACVFA’s inaugural Congressional Leadership Awards to Senators Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Representatives Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and John Edward Porter (R-IL) for their support of women’s rights and opportunities.

**This summary report of the ACVFA Quarterly meeting has been prepared and distributed by the USAID Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation (PVC). The full report and annexes are available upon request from Ms. Noreen O’Meara, ACVFA Director, USAID/BHR/PVC, Room 7.6.84, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20523.**

**202-712-5979**

**[www.info.usaid.gov](http://www.info.usaid.gov)**

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Next ACVFA Meeting:  
September 14, 2000**

Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA)  
Room 7-06-084 RRB  
USAID/BHR/PVC  
Washington, D.C. 20523-7600

# **Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA)**

**May 10, 2000**

## **MEETING REPORT**



**For more information, please contact:**

**ACVFA Secretariat**

**Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid**

**Tel: (703) 741-0566      Fax: (703) 741-0567**

**e-mail: [lisajama@aol.com](mailto:lisajama@aol.com)**